



State Department Honors Dwight School with Special Representative Visit

Dwight School's diversity spurs Farah Pandith, the first-ever Special Representative to Muslim Communities, to meet students at the New York campus

New York, NY (September 26, 2013) – Dwight School, one of Manhattan's oldest independent schools, played host to a memorable visitor from the State Department this week when Farah Pandith, Special Representative to Muslim Communities, addressed the student body.

Ms. Pandith, who was appointed in 2009 by then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, singled out the prestigious West 89th Street school based on its diverse student community, which represents more than 40 nationalities. She is tasked with executing a vision for engagement with Muslims worldwide, and youth outreach is a key component of her role.

Recognized as a leader in international education, Dwight boasts campuses and programs in London, Seoul, Beijing, and on Vancouver Island. The School has long been committed to providing students with an International Baccalaureate education based on its three pillars: personalized learning, community, and global vision, and thus was a fitting choice for a visit while Representative Pandith was in the city at the UN General Assembly.

Ms. Pandith □ who has traveled to some 80 countries, and launched youth-focused initiatives such as Generation Change □ was particularly impressed by Dwight's global-minded students, praising their engagement. She led two panel discussions, which were moderated by 11 Dwight students, representing five nationalities. Among the panelists were joint-Secretaries General of Dwight School New York's model UN, Michael Asali '14 and Jonathan Gregory '14.

Students questioned Ms. Pandith on a plethora of global issues, including: international diplomacy, the perception of Muslims in the media, and community outreach. Afterward, Ms. Pandith was full of praise for the depth of questions, noting also the School's welcoming atmosphere. She ended by urging Dwight students to get involved in government, reminding them that through social media, their voices are being heard in ways that were not previously possible.

Following the event, Dwight School Chancellor Stephen Spahn, the longest-serving school leader in New York City, said, "We are so delighted that Dwight was selected to host Ms. Pandith, as we are deeply committed to serving our diverse communities and to shaping tomorrow's global leaders today."

More About The Dwight School

Founded in 1872, Dwight (www.dwight.edu) was the first school in the U.S. to offer the comprehensive International Baccalaureate curriculum for students from preschool-grade 12. It is the flagship campus of The Dwight Schools, a global network of IB World Schools spanning three continents dedicated to igniting the "spark of genius" in every child.

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Contact: Angel Strickland Fahy, 212-724-6360 x 474, afahy@dwight.edu